MARVEL

LIMITED SERIES

3 OF 5

TORRES
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X-MEN: RONIN®

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PART THREE: HELL

Who are the X-Men?

The X-Men are a mutant team dedicated to preserving the peace between mutants and humans, and protecting the world from those mutants who believe their genes make them the rightful inheritors of the Earth! They are... Wolverine (Logan), Samurai Slasher! Cyclops (Scott Summers), One-Eyed Warrior! Storm (Ororo Munroe), Weather Witch! And Marvel Girl (Jean Grey), Sultry Psychic!

Emma Frost, a powerful mutant telepath, is desperate to recruit Jean Grey for the exclusive mutant Hellfire Club so Frost can secure her own promotion in the club's ranks. Frost sends bad-news mutants Iceman, Pyro and Colossus to capture Jean, but the X-Men turn the tables and put them behind bars! The team chases Frost through the city and nearly has her... until she casts an illusion in the minds of arriving police officers that the X-Men are monsters and she an innocent schoolgirl!

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Aiiee! Help!!

I don't know if you can understand me, but back away from the girl!

Let's not make this any harder than it has to be, lady.

Oh, I assure you the situation is already more complicated than you know.

Don't you recognize us? We're the X-Men!

We only want to question this woman. She could be dangerous. Please stand back and let us handle this!

Wh- what wretched tongue does it speak?

Why is everyone looking at us like that?

Something is not right here...

ARGH!

Wolverine!

Flee, child! Make haste!

CHCHIK

Whoa! Whoa! Put the artilery away, I'm one of the good guys...

No! Stop that woman!

SHOOM!

SHOOM!

Fine...

I can shoot first and ask questions later, too!

SKREEE!

We need to get out of here before someone else gets hurt!

Yeah, we'll deal with Frost later.

What the--?

...REPORTS OF MONSTROUS MUTANTS RAMPAGING THROUGH THE DOWNTOWN STREETS OF HIRO PREFECTURE...

PICO.co.

Monsters? Oh, man... they mean us!

Should we just surrender ourselves?

Seems that option was never on the table...

They are coming at us from all sides!

Can't go right, can't go left... so we go down!

ZAP

KRAKOOM

Storm, get my brother outta here-- I'll hold 'em back!

You wouldn't shoot a guy with only one eye, would you?

Keep your hands where we can see them.

Do any of you know what happens if I open my good eye?

I'll count to five before I give you a look...

Later, in the sewers...

Think they'll follow, Cyclops?

Doubt it.

But we need somewhere to regroup...

What about Master Toad's?

It's been hours since the incident, but you say you haven't heard from your teammates?

If they can't change shape, then what about the eyewitness reports of monsters--

Perhaps you're unaware of mutations--

UN TV

I can't answer any more questions. You know as much as I do about what happened earlier today.

There's a perfectly good explanation for all of this, and when the other X-Men return... we'll release a statement.

Please don't jump to any conclusions or spread any more myths about the X-Men or mutants in general.

We're not monsters! We use our powers for good. Mutants do not go on senseless rampages, destroy property and endanger innocent people's lives.

Then care to tell us what happened to your house?

Uh... no comment.

The Hellfire Club

No! You can't do this to me!

Emma, you cost the Shadowcat Clan three of its ninja.

You and your lackeys nearly destroyed a bar owned and operated by a rival syndicate.

And yesterday, a very public and destructive exchange with the X-Men when we're supposed to be infiltrating inconspicuously...

You're becoming quite a liability to our fledgling organization.

But the X-Men came after me! Tell him, Tessa!

I had nothing to do with this!

Girls, please... Lower your voices. You're upsetting Cerebra.

Emma, you are merely being admonished. This is a temporary suspension, not an expulsion from the Hellfire Club.

And although this perhaps hurts your chances of being named White Queen, you are still and always will be...

...my daughter.

SLAM!

She's impatient and brash... just like her mother. Has that nasty temper as well.

No, father, that was *my* mother. Emma's mother was the quiet one who liked to write haiku and fly kites.

The sewers...

Thank you for helping us out yet again, Master Toad.

As always, fair Ororo, it is my privelege and pleasure to assist you uncanny X-Men.

We are still a masterless clan. Won't you reconsider joining us "above"? Times have changed.

Then why are you hiding down here, Scott?

Classic misunderstanding scenario, Toad-sensei. We'll get it cleared up as soon as you're done patching up Logan.

I have done all I can. And even with his accelerated healing abilities, we can only wait and see...

Then may we leave him in your care?

Yeah, we have to figure out what happened up there, talk to the police, and try to clear the air.

Who do we go to first? Shiro Yoshida, our so-called chief of police...

Or should we try and track down Frost for some answers? And what about...

You check on Jean!

I'm going to speak to someone who may be able to help us.

Jean!

Tell me you've devised some means of contacting the outside world since we were here last, Toad-sensei...

Hurry up, Logan-san. Your "masterless clan" needs you...

They need to be stopped! The X-Men operate outside the law! That makes them vigilantes!

...NEWSFLASH...
...NEWSFLASH...

Yoshida-san, what of reports that the police are preparing special measures in the event that--

The X-Men are outlaws who answer to no one and that makes them dangerous!

...NEWSFLASH... X-MEN AT LARGE...
MUTANT MENACES WANTED BY AUTHORITIES...
THREAT TO PUBLIC... NEWSFLASH...

Forge!
Do you hear all these lies?!
The X-Men are outlaws who answer to no one and that makes them dangerous!
Ororo...

Chief Yoshida only wants to protect us. To keep the criminal mutant element in check. Make the streets safer for everyone.

Speaking of criminal mutants...

It's okay... I know who you are, Ororo.

Y-you do?

Yes.

Just turn yourself in. Running only makes matters worse. The X-Men have done some good, but by operating outside the law...

It doesn't help that you injured several police officers--

They shot at us first!

Witnesses say you were threatening a little girl.

Little girl? We were after a woman named Frost. A telepath who sent ninja to--

That's it! A telepath... She brainwashed those mutants to attack us... and made people see us as monsters!

Ororo... come back with me to the station and explain it there.

Your friends are already being rounded up.

My friends are *what?*

1

You are now under arrest by the proper authorities.

Do not dishonor yourself further. Surrender peacefully...

SHUUK!

You have no authority here!

First round's on me, mates!

Freeze!

Freeze?

Heh. That's funny.

WHACK!

Where do you think you're going?

And you are?

Jean Grey of the X-Men.

Murderers... your troubles are just beginning!!

You!

You're wot's got us in trouble in the first place!

Jean!

TO BE CONTINUED!